reference to the recommendation of the Special Inspecting Officer of the islands and the remarks of the Collector of Malabar and the Transport Officer. As regards the other suggestion made by the hon. Gentleman, I do not think it is practicable now."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" May I know why the application was rejected? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The locking up of public money in a private enterprise was not warranted."

Sri A. APPU :—" Sir, the Governor visited these islands in December last, and made personal enquiries. Is it a fact that as a result of the Governor's recommendation, the Central Government have been approached for the allotment of funds to start a steamer service between the islands and the mainland? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, the matter is taken up with the Government of India."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know what is the present means of communication between the main land and the Laccadives? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" By means of crafts, Sir."

Conference of Secretaries to Industries Departments of States at Bombay.

* 629 Q.—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a Conference of Secretaries to Industries Departments of States was held at Bombay on the 15th June 1954 and whether it was attended by the Secretary of this Government in the concerned department; and

(*b*) if so, the subjects discussed?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir."

" (*b*) The discussion related to the recommendations of the Ford Foundation Team on Small Scale Industries and also assistance to handloom industry."

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY :—" இந்தச் சிறு கைத் தொழில்களுக்கு சர்க்கார் இன்னும் அதிகப்படியாக மானியம் ஒதுக்கி அவற்றுக்கெல்லாம் நேரடையாக உதவி செய்ய என்ன திட்டம் இருக்கிறது ?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government are examining the conclusions arrived at in the course of the discussion referred to."

Construction of a bridge over Purakkattiri river.

* 630 Q.—Sri K. M. SEETHI SAHIB : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to construct a bridge over Purakkattiri river in the Chevayoor constituency in Malabar district;